UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

PROVISIONAL

S/PV.2996
28 June 1991

ENGLISH

PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TWO THOUSAND
NINE HUNDRED AND NINETY-SIXTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 28 June 1991, at 6.55 p.m.

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| President: | Mr. BECHIO | (Côte d'Ivoire) |
| Members: | Austria | Mr. HOHENFELLNER |
| | Belgium | Mr. NOTERDAEME |
| | China | Mr. JIN Yongjian |
| | Cuba | Mr. MUJICA CANTELAR |
| | Ecuador | Mr. POSSO SERRANO |
| | France | Mr. MERIMEE |
| | India | Mr. GHAREKHAN |
| | Romania | Mr. MUNTEANU |
| | Union of Soviet Socialist Republics | Mr. VORONTSOV |
| | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | Mr. RICHARDSON |
| | United States of America | Mr. WATSON |
| | Yemen | Mr. AL-ASHTAL |
| | Zaire | Mr. BAGBENI ADEITO NZENGEYA |
| | Zimbabwe | Mr. MUMBENGEGWI |

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The meeting was called to order at 6.55 p.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was adopted.

THE SITUATION BETWEEN IRAQ AND KUWAIT

LETTER DATED 26 JUNE 1991 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (S/22739)

LETTER DATED 28 JUNE 1991 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL (S/22743)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The Security Council will now resume consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/22743 containing the text of a letter dated 28 June 1991 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council.

Following consultations among the members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The members of the Security Council have learnt with grave concern of an incident which occurred today when the Iraqi military authorities denied a joint IAEA/Special Commission Nuclear Inspection Team immediate and unimpeded access to a site designated for inspection by the Special Commission under paragraphs 9 and 13 of Security Council resolution 687 (1991). In the course of this incident, the Iraqi military did not comply with a request by the Acting Chief Inspector that there should be no movement of transport or equipment pending inspection. The Iraqi military fired small arms into the air when members of the Team were endeavouring to photograph loaded vehicles leaving the site. This incident followed earlier incidents on 23 and 25 June 1991 when the Iraqi military authorities denied the Nuclear Inspection Team access to certain facilities at another designated site.

(The President)

"On 26 June 1991, the Security Council held a meeting to consider the incidents of 23 and 25 June at which time the Permanent Representative of Iraq confirmed that Iraq had accepted Security Council resolution 687 (1991) and was doing its best to implement all the requirements and obligations imposed on it by the resolution. He further asserted that Iraq was co-operating with all United Nations missions, including the Special Commission. The President subsequently conveyed the Council's serious concern regarding the incidents to the Government of Iraq.

"The members of the Council strongly deplore the incidents of 23, 25 and 28 June, and in this connection condemn the conduct of the Iraqi authorities. All these incidents constitute flagrant violations of Security Council resolution 687 (1991) and of the undertakings contained in the exchange of letters between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Foreign Minister of Iraq governing the status, privileges and immunities of the Special Commission and of the Inspection Teams mandated under the Security Council resolution. Furthermore, these incidents demonstrate Iraq's failure to abide by its solemn undertakings to comply with all the provisions of Security Council resolution 687 (1991).

"The members of the Security Council have decided to ask the Secretary-General to send a high-level mission to Baghdad immediately to meet with the highest levels of the Iraqi Government to convey the Council's urgent demand for unequivocal assurances that the Government will take all necessary measures to ensure that no hindrances are placed in the way of the discharge of the Special Commission's mandate and that

(The President)

it will accord full co-operation, including immediate and unimpeded access, to the inspection teams in compliance with Iraq's obligations and commitments vis-à-vis the United Nations and the IAEA. The members of the Council have also stressed that the Government must furnish the high-level mission with unconditional guarantees for the safety and security of all personnel engaged in the performance of functions in connection with Security Council resolution 687 (1991). The mission, composed of the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission and the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, will depart New York this evening, 28 June 1991.

"At this time, the members of the Council call upon Iraq to grant the IAEA/Special Commission Nuclear Inspection Team currently in Iraq immediate and unimpeded access to the objects which the Team had endeavoured to inspect on 28 June 1991 and any other site deemed necessary.

"The members of the Security Council request the high-level mission to report to it at the earliest opportunity, through the Secretary-General, on the results of its meetings with the highest levels of the Iraqi Government and, in particular, on such further undertakings by the Government to ensure compliance at all levels, including local military and civilian authorities, with Iraq's obligations under Security Council resolution 687 (1991).

"The members of the Council wish to make it clear that the Council remains seized of this matter and that any recurrence of non-compliance would have serious consequences.

(The President)

"The members of the Council reiterate their views expressed in resolution 687 (1991) of the threat that all weapons of mass destruction pose to peace and security in the Middle East and of the need to work towards the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of such weapons."

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council remains seized of the question.

The meeting rose at 7.10 p.m.